

Testimony supporting Ohio House Bill 121

October 31, 2017

Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, and Ranking Member Holmes, thank you for the opportunity to give proponent testimony supporting Ohio House Bill 121. My name is Lakshmanan Viswanathan, representing Oatey Co., a global manufacturer and distributor of plumbing products, headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio where it employs over 500 associates in several manufacturing, office and distribution locations. Many of you who have done household plumbing projects probably know us well, as you have probably used Oatey solvent cement for plastic pipe and other products that we manufacture.

Oatey strongly supports House Bill 121 as amended. For jurisdictions to allow only one type of piping material in water utility projects ignores many important factors.

It is our belief that one material or class of materials does not provide the best solution for all circumstances and systems. Many factors must be considered, both technical and economical. Innovation in piping materials over the last seventy-five years has yielded major advances in safety, ease of installation, water quality, cost, and longevity of these systems. The public suffers the consequences when these advances are ignored and alternate piping systems are not allowed by antiquated code requirements. In particular, the use of PVC piping continues to be unreasonably restricted in spite of the fact that where communities have used it in water systems, it has provided clean drinking water for many decades, thereby allowing those communities to save money on both installation and maintenance.

In a time when state and municipal budgets are severely constrained, we cannot allow the best piping material systems not to be considered. House Bill 121 greatly serves public health and interest by ensuring a level playing field and increasing the likelihood that the best material for a system will be considered and chosen.

As I mentioned earlier, Oatey is headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, where it employs over 500 associates. Oatey and its associates strongly endorse House Bill 121 and respectfully ask that you allow this bill to pass and provide that level playing field for all piping materials and systems.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

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